

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim 1 13, wherein further comprising a sensor ~~(39)~~ is ~~provided~~ to capture the welding wire ~~(13)~~ stored in the wire buffer storage ~~(43)~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim 2, wherein a the sensor ~~(39)~~ is arranged in front of the drive unit ~~(35)~~, viewed in the conveying direction of the welding wire ~~(13)~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim 1 13, wherein the member comprises a wire core ~~(32)~~ is arranged in ~~the~~ an end region within the torch body ~~(27)~~ so as to be freely movable in the longitudinal direction.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim 4, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a sensor (39) ~~is~~ arranged to detect the movement of the wire core (32) in the freely movable end region of the wire core (32).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim 5, ~~wherein~~ further comprising an indicator (40) ~~is~~ arranged in the freely movable end region of the wire core (32), and ~~that~~ wherein the sensor (39) comprises at least one coil (41) surrounding said indicator (40) and having an inductance that is changeable by the position of the indicator (40).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim ~~4~~ 13, wherein the member comprises a wire core (32) ~~is~~ fixed ~~in the region of~~ near the drive unit (35).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim ~~4~~ 13, wherein the member comprises a welding wire extending from a wire core, the wire core terminating (32) ~~terminates~~ immediately after the connection region ~~of connection~~ ~~of the hose pack (23) to the torch body (27)~~, and ~~that~~ wherein the welding wire (13) is subsequently arranged to extend barely as far as to the drive unit (35).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim ± 13, wherein the member comprises a welding wire arranged within a flexible guide hose and extending from a wire core, the wire core terminating (32) ~~terminates~~ immediately after the connection region of connection of the hose pack (23) on the torch body (27), and that the welding wire (13) is arranged in a flexible guide hose (47) within the wire buffer storage (43).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim ± 13, wherein the member comprises an unguided welding wire and wherein limit elements (45) are arranged in the torch body (27) to delimit the curved course of the unguided welding wire (13).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim ± 13, wherein the connection of the hose pack (23) to the torch body (27) is realized by a coupling device (24).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim ± 13, wherein the hose pack (23) is arranged to be adjustable relative to the torch body (27) so as to enable a change of the amount of welding wire (13) contained in the wire buffer storage (43) by such an adjustment.

Claim 13 (New): A welding torch having a central axis comprising:

- (a) a torch body;
- (b) a drive unit for conveying a welding wire at different wire-conveying speeds or for a forward/rearward wire conveyance;
- (c) a hose pack connected at a connection region to the torch body at an angle of up to 90 degrees relative to the central axis; and
- (d) a wire buffer storage arranged immediately after the connection region within the torch body, said wire buffer storage containing an amount of welding wire and being formed from a member selected from the group consisting of the welding wire, a wire core, and a guide hose, said member following a curved course between said connection region and said drive unit, the amount of welding wire contained in said wire buffer storage being adjustable by a change of said curved course.